

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A subsea process assembly for separating a multiphase flow, the assembly comprising:
 - an inlet for a multiphase medium;
 - a pressure reducing means for reducing the pressure of the multiphase flow from the inlet and creating a source of energy;
 - a multiphase separator for separating the multiphase input into individual phases; and
 - a pumping system for, in use, pumping at least one of the desired individual phases to a delivery point by utilising of the energy from the source of energy.
2. (Original) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1, wherein the pressure reducing means is one of a hydraulic power device, electric power drive and a flow controller.
3. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to either claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising a control process module for controlling the pressure reducing means and the pumping system.
4. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to ~~claim 1~~~~any of the preceding claims~~, further comprising a power drive unit that generates hydraulic power from an external energy source.
5. (Original) A subsea process assembly according to claim 4, wherein the external energy source is either in the form of fluid or electrical energy.
6. (Original) A subsea process assembly according to claim 5, wherein the power drive unit and/or the pressure reducing means is driven by a fluid which provides energy in the form of liquid or gas.
7. (Original) A subsea process assembly according to claim 6, wherein the wellstream energy is achieved by creating a pressure differential in the multiphase flow between the inlet and the separator.

8. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~, further comprising a drive fluid inlet, the drive fluid being pumped to the module from an external point.
9. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the pressure reducing means further comprises a means for creating a pressure differential in the drive fluid and thereby creating a further source of energy.
10. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to either claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the drive fluid is water from a water injection supply.
11. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the pressure of the multiphase flow is reduced to below 25 atmospheres.
12. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the multistage separator can be formed by at least one of the following: a centrifugal container, a vortex tube, a cyclone, helix container or auger, a gravity vertical or horizontal tank, a silo, a conductor pile housing, toroidal ring, a toroidal spiral combination or a spiral.
13. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the separating process can separate the multiphase fluid into at least two of the following: a solids slurry, gas, oil and water.
14. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~, further comprising an individual pump for each phase.
15. (Original) A subsea process assembly according to claim 14, wherein the individual phase pumps are driven by the energy created in the assembly.
16. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~ further comprising of a solids removal unit for removing a solids slurry prior to separation.

17. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~, further comprising a means for, in use, injecting exhaust water into a well.

18.. (Currently amended) A subsea process assembly according to claim 1~~any one of the preceding claims~~, further comprising a template, a piping mat and a retrievable subsea process module.

19. (Original) A subsea process assembly according to claim 18, wherein the retrievable subsea process module comprises a retrievable base module and retrievable mini modules.

20. (Currently amended) A subsea hydrocarbon recovery system comprising:
a subsea well for supplying a multiphase fluid;
a subsea process assembly comprising
an inlet for a multiphase medium;
a pressure reducing means for reducing the pressure of the multiphase flow from the inlet and creating a source of energy;
a multiphase separator for separating the multiphase input into individual phases; and
a pumping system for, in use, pumping at least one of the desired individual phases to a delivery point by utilising of the energy from the source of energy according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the inlet to the assembly is in fluid communication with the well; and
a delivery point for receiving the recovered hydrocarbon(s) from the subsea process assembly.

21. (Original) A subsea hydrocarbon recovery system according to claim 20, further comprising a well into which surplus products of the separation can be reinjected.

22. (Currently amended) A subsea hydrocarbon recovery system according to either claim 20 or claim 21, further comprising a plurality of subsea wells, each having an associated subsea process module which supplies the recovered hydrocarbon(s) to the same delivery point.

23. (Currently amended) A subsea hydrocarbon recovery system according to claim 20~~any one of claims 20 to 22~~, wherein the delivery point is one of: a pipeline for removing the product from the field, a water injection well, a gas injection well or a producing well to achieve artificial lift.